

# In brief: The Collaborative Seed Programme

Guiding seed sector transformation in Nigeria

COLLABORATIVE  
**SEEDPROGRAMME**  
Nigeria-Netherlands



## Introduction

The Collaborative Seed Programme (CSP) brings together Nigerian and Dutch seed sector stakeholders with the aim to enhance the performance of the Nigerian seed sector. It takes a systemic approach for sustainably addressing key challenges in the seed sector.

CSP contributes to the vision of the National Seed Road Map (NSRM) of Nigeria being the seed sector to become more competitive, resilient, profitable, innovative and adaptive, sustainable, inclusive, resistant and transparent.

CSP is a four-year programme financed by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Abuja; it is embedded within the Nigeria-Netherlands Seed Partnership (NNSP).

## CSP Partners

CSP Partners include government, industry, knowledge, regulatory, civil society and farmer organizations from both Nigeria and the Netherlands.

### Partners in Nigeria include:

National Agricultural Seeds Council (NASC); Seed Entrepreneurs Association of Nigeria (SEEDAN); various individual seed companies and producers; Sahel Consulting Agriculture & Nutrition Ltd. (Sahel Consulting); Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), various National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARIs) and the National Centre for Genetic Resources and Biotechnology (NACGRAB).

During the start-up phase, additional partners relevant to the success of the programme will be identified for each of the selected CSP topics.

### Partners in the Netherlands include:

Wageningen University & Research (WUR) through Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation (WCIDI) and Wageningen Plant Research (WPR); the Dutch seed trade association Plantum; and the Netherlands Inspection Service for Horticulture Naktuinbouw.

## Programme snapshot

<b>Impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Improved sustainable income, food and nutrition security of rural households in Nigeria</li></ul>
<b>Goal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Improve farmers' access and use of quality seed of new, improved varieties to sustainably increase agricultural productivity</li></ul>
<b>Programme Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Enhanced capacity of the seed sector to provide high quality, inclusive and differentiated services to seed producers and seed value chain actors</li><li>Enhanced efficiency, fairness and transparency of seed value chains and seed markets</li><li>Enhanced coordination, alignment and accountability among different seed stakeholders</li><li>Enhanced rules and systems that govern seed markets, production systems, service delivery and coordination</li></ul>
<b>Programme Targets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Number of small-scale food producers (SSFP) that progressively decrease the yield gap in Kaduna State</li><li>Number of SSFPs with increased productivity in Kaduna State</li><li>Number of SSFPs using quality seed in Kaduna State</li><li>Number of SSFPs using improved varieties in Kaduna State</li></ul>

## 8 CSP Topics

To achieve its vision, the National Seed Road Map outlines 22 Strategic Innovation Pathways (SIPs), detailing each with ambitions and steps. The CSP contributes to the implementation of eight selected SIPs. These selected SIPs shape what are referred to as CSP Topics:

- Decentralization of seed quality assurance
- Extension on seed and cultivation practices
- Seed company marketing and promotion
- Institutional markets
- Sector governance and coordination
- Alignment of donor interventions
- Plant variety protection
- Variety release

## Join the official launch

The official launch of the CSP will take place on April 28, 2021.

You are invited to join with other international stakeholders to kick-off the exciting programme.

Due to the COVID-19 situation, the launch event is online only.

**When:** April 28<sup>th</sup>, 14:00 – 15:30 WAT

**Click/Tap here to register**

**Link:** <https://bit.ly/CSPNigeriaLaunch>

## CSP Governance and management

### Steering Committee

A CSP Steering Committee including representatives of key stakeholders in the seed sector in Nigeria and the Netherlands will provide strategic oversight and guidance to the programme, and ensure that the CSP fosters the development of the agricultural sector in Nigeria and is aligned with other initiatives and networks. Members of the committee will be identified by WCDI, Sahel Consulting and NASC in consultation with EKN during the programme's start-up phase.

### Implementation

WCDI is coordinating the CSP and leads the consortium responsible for the implementation of the programme. WCDI also coordinates activities in the Netherlands. In Nigeria, Sahel Consulting coordinates activities through a CSP office established in Abuja. Both WCDI and Sahel Consulting support partners in the coordination and implementation of CSP topics and their actions. A project management team will be established including staff of WCDI, Sahel Consulting and NASC. Whereas WCDI will develop contracts with Dutch partners, Sahel Consulting will do so with all Nigerian partners.

### CSP Topic Teams

CSP Topic teams are comprised of representatives of relevant partner organisations engaged in the topic. The team collaboratively plans and implements strategies and activities for their topic. Each CSP Topic Team is led by both a Nigerian and Dutch Topic Lead. Together, they coordinate implementation and manage at programmatic level the topic activities, liaising with partners and stakeholders. Topic leads are identified during the start-up phase in consultation with partners.

## Start-up phase

The programme is now in a start-up phase, during which the institutional and contractual arrangements, including the recruitment of staff, is underway. At the programme level, a management and steering structure is being established. A study constituting the baseline to the CSP is forthcoming.

The programme and topic teams will engage in planning workshops focusing on familiarization with the CSP and the respective topics. The workshop facilitates agreement on modes of working, overall topic plan and priority start-up activities.

Teams will share initial plans with the steering committee for adaptation, alignment and confirmation. Once plans are confirmed, WCDI and Sahel will initiate contracting to enable partners to begin activities.

Contributing to the  
**Nigeria-Netherlands Seed Partnership**

CSP topic	Nigerian partners	Netherland partners	Ambitions
Decentralization of seed quality assurance	NASC, Sahel, Seed companies	WCDI	Consolidated, effective and sustainable seed quality assurance systems cover multiple crops (cereals, legumes, RTBs, and vegetables) and provide services to different types of seed entrepreneurs. Specific seed quality assurance standards and protocols developed and implemented for all crops, especially for RTBs and vegetables.
Extension on seed and cultivation practices	ABU, Sahel, Seed companies	WCDI, WPR	Enhanced public and private extension services that promote farmers' use of quality seed of improved varieties combined with advanced cultivation practices.
Seed company marketing and promotion	Sahel, SEEDAN, Seed companies	WCDI, WPR, Plantum, Seed Companies	Increased and more structural investment by seed companies in the marketing and promotion of quality seed and improved varieties that results in an increased awareness of farmers and enhanced willingness to pay for quality seed and improved varieties.
Institutional markets	Sahel, NASC, SEEDAN, Seed companies, Development partners	WCDI	Increased demand- and market-driven, dynamic and functioning seed sector that operates sustainably with minimal government, NGO and Programme subsidies and interventions; if interventions are made, they promote accountability and sustainability.
Sector governance and coordination	NASC, SEEDAN, and all others	WCDI, Plantum, EKN	Enhanced governance of the seed sector with institutional responsibilities for governance and regulation; a structured and functional National Seed Sector Platform; a collaborative and sector-driven implementation of the NSRM; and improved coordination between public and private stakeholders in seed sector development.
Alignment of donor interventions	Sahel, Development partners	WCDI, WCDI, EKN	Increased coordination and alignment among donor and development organizations in the seed sector.
Plant variety protection	NASC, NACGRAB, SEEDAN, NARIs, seed companies and others	WCDI, Plantum, Naktuinbouw	Adopted Plant Variety Protection Bill; operational UPOV-PVP system that supports the development of the seed sector.
Variety release	NACGRAB, NARIs, NASC, seed companies and others	WCDI, Plantum, Seed Companies	Increased efficiency and transparency in variety release procedures with a more realistic cost-benefit ratio; enforced ECOWAS harmonization on variety release that supports private sector investment.